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Message Text

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10/11
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 040504
O 250836Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1132
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8475

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT----PARAGRAPH 3.)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR UNGA UNSC KS JA
SUBJ: GOJ COMMENTS ON KOREAN STRATEGY IN UNGA

REF: A. STATE 147826; B. STATE 146720

1. DCM CALLED ON DEP FONMIN ARITA JUNE 25 AND MADE POINTS OUTLINED REFTEL B. IN ADDITION, DCM IMPRESSED ON ARITA NEED FOR GOJ DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE STRESSED THAT THE EARLIER SUPPORTERS OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION COULD GET ORGANIZED AND WORKING, THE BETTER THE CHANCES OF GAINING PRIORITY OF INSCRIPTION AND ULTIMATE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION. IN REPLY, ARITA SAID THAT GOJ FULLY UNDERSTOOD ALL POINTS, AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR PRESENTATIONS MADE BY US IN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, AND TOKYO. ON QUESTION OF CO-SPONSORSHIP, HE SAID FONOFF NOW WAITING ONLY FOR APPROVAL FROM PRIME MINISTER, WHICH MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING AS EARLY AS THIS AFTERNOON. FONOFF WOULD CABLE EMBASSY WASHINGTON AS SOON AS PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED.

2. GOJ, ARITA CONTINUED, REGARDS THE RESOLUTION AS REASONABLE AND SERIOUS, BUT MUST BE SENSITIVE ABOUT WAY IT IS EXPLAINED BOTH TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES. GOJ WANTS TO AVOID HAVING RESOLUTION REGARDED AS LEADING TO CONFRONTATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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PREFERRING INSTEAD TO PORTRAY RESOLUTION AS SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS BETWEEN PARTIES CONCERNED.

3. DCM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD JAPANESE CONCERN TO AVOID

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CONFRONTATION POSTURE, BUT WARNED THAT USE OF TERM "CONSENSUS" IN ANY EXPLANATION WOULD BE INTERPRETED IN ITS HISTORICAL UN CONTEXT AS INDICATION THAT FRIENDLY SIDE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW RESOLUTION. THIS WAS LAST IMPRESSION WE WANTED TO GIVE. RATHER, FIRMNESS AND DETERMINATION WERE KEY ELEMENTS IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION AND RESOLVING PROBLEM.

4. ARITA REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MISCONCEPTIONS THAT COULD ARISE OUT OF USE OF TERM "CONSENSUS" AND ASKED IF US PURPOSE IN PRESENTING RESOLUTION COULD BE DESCRIBED AS SEARCH FOR "AGREED SOLUTION". DCM SAID THIS DESCRIPTION WAS ACCURATE, ADDING THAT OUR APPROACH IS NO MORE PLOY BUT RATHER SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO SOLVE PROBLEM. IF RESOLUTION PASSED, US FULLY PREPARED TO CARRY ON TALKS WITH OTHER SIDE. WITHOUT AGREEMENT FROM NORTH KOREANS, NO SOLUTION POSSIBLE. ARITA MADE SPECIAL POINT OF ENSURING THAT NOTETAKER HAD GRASPED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "CONSENSUS" AND "AGREED SOLUTION", AND SAID LATTER TERM SHOULD PROVE SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR GOJ EXPLANATION TO AUDIENCES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

5. COMMENT: ARITA'S REMARKS SEEM TO CLARIFY THAT SUBSTANCE OF RESOLUTION LESS A STUMBLING BLOCK THAN DEVISING PUBLIC POSTURE FOR JAPAN TO ADOPT IN SUPPORT OF OUR APPROACH. NORMAL JAPANESE TENDENCY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION STRENGTHENED BY MIKI GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO COUCH ALL MOVES IN CONCILIATORY TERMS.

6. WHETHER OR NOT PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING, WE EXPECT GOJ TO CO-SPONSOR AND TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION ACTIVELY. DURING INFORMAL CONVERSATION AT TIME APPOINTMENT FOR CALL BEING MADE, ARITA MADE POINT OF TELLING DCM "WE ARE PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER YOU THINK BEST".
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO08475
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750220-0129
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750699/baaaafpd.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <30 JUN 2003 by CunninFX, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <19 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971107
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS, UNGA, UNSC
To: STATE INFO SEOUL
USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006